

March, 1950

Mental Clinic Seen Needed For Island

Psychological Disorders
Widespread, Declares
Willowbrook Director

Staten Island's need for a mental health clinic was emphasized in a talk by Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the Willowbrook State School, at a meeting of the Health Division of the Community Welfare Council of Staten Island yesterday in the activities center of the Visiting Nurse Association, 96 Wright street, Stapleton.

"Anyone, regardless of economic circumstances, may need special help with emotional problems, yet only the well-to-do can afford to pay for treatment of a psychiatrist," he said.

In his talk, which followed the showing of a film on emotional health, Dr. Berman brought out that many chest and heart pains, gastro-intestinal and other physical symptoms are caused by fear or other emotional disturbances. Sometimes a short period of psychiatric treatment may be sufficient to bring relief, he added, and, at other times, treatment covering many months may be necessary.

Commitment Difficult

Dr. Berman commented on the difficulty encountered in arranging commitment in Richmond County for a mentally ill person requiring institutional care. It is necessary, he said, for the examining physician making the recommendation, to travel to Brooklyn to appear with the patient before a judge in King's County Court, unless a patient has already been committed to King's County Hospital, and is directly certified from there.

The film was secured through the cooperation of the Richmond office of the New York City Health Department. At the next meeting of the division March 13, Allan Miller, guidance coordinator assigned to the office of Dr. I. Victor Burger, assistant superintendent of schools, will speak. Miss Mary A. Coleman, division chairman, presided at yesterday's session.

Dewey Picks 3 Islanders For Willowbrook Board

Pavis, Smith
And Klinger
Named Visitors

(Advance Albany Bureau)

ALBANY — Three Staten Islanders are among the seven men and women who have been nominated by Governor Dewey to the first board of visitors of the Willowbrook State School.

The Islanders are Frank A. Pavis of 141 St. Mark's place, St. George, whose term will run until Dec. 31, 1951; J. Joyce Klinger of 60 Marion avenue, Stapleton, whose term will run until Dec. 31, 1954, and C. Ernest Smith of 1 Silver Beach road, Emerson Hill, whose term will run until Dec. 31, 1953.

Their names yesterday were sent to the Senate for confirmation.

Others nominated are Mrs. Jacqueline S. Lyons of Brooklyn and Fareed N. Kiamie, John A. Warner and Mrs. Ogden L. Mills, all Manhattan.

This is the first visitors' board since the school for mental defectives was completed in 1941. The grounds and buildings were leased to the Army for use as Halloran General Hospital during the war. But now the VA and the State Department of Mental Hygiene share the Willowbrook site. Eventually the institution will house 3,000 patients.

Dewey noted that all three Islanders are active in their community. Pavis is manager of the corporate bond department of Charles E. Conney Company, Manhattan. Smith, a former Municipal Court justice, and Klinger both are lawyers.

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At the Council

STATEN ISLAND needs a mental health clinic, Dr. Harold H. Berman, director of the Willowbrook State School, told members of the Health Division of the Community Welfare Council of Staten Island, at its meeting last week.

A recently organized Mental Health Committee is collecting information on local needs and resources. It will develop educational programs and will seek ways to get Staten Island the facilities it needs. Mrs. Charles Lindemeyer, past president of the Staten Island Federation of Mothers Clubs, and Catherine O'Brien, director of social services of St. Vincent's Hospital, are co-chairmen of the committee, which includes social workers and representatives of churches, schools and civic groups.